

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5647

AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USUN MISSION NEW YORK 1418

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5726

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT PINS KS JA

SUBJECT: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS: PRESIDENT PARK CONVEYS PERSONAL  
DISSATISFACTION WITH GOJ ATTITUDES

1. SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 30, PRESIDENT PARK PERSONALLY  
DELIVERED TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR WHAT FONMIN KIM DONG-JO  
DESCRIBED AS "SORT OF ULTIMATUM" REGARDING ROK WILLING-  
NESS TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH JAPAN UNLESS  
GOJ TAKES APPROPRIATE STEPS TO ACKNOWLEDGE ITS RESPON-  
SIBILITY FOR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, TO PROSECUTE  
CONSPIRATORS IN JAPAN, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY TO PREVENT  
CHOSEN SOREN FROM FUNCTIONING IN FUTURE AS BASE FOR  
ANTI-ROK ACTIVITIES. IN INFORMING CHARGE OF PRESIDENT'S  
ACTION, FONMIN OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THT USG USE GOOD  
OFFICES TO PERSUADE JAPANESE OF NECESSITY OF TAKING  
ACTIONS SOUGHT BY ROKG. END SUMMARY.

2. CHARGE REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN KIM DONG-JO  
AUGUST 30 TO DISCUSS SEPARATE SUBJECT. AFTER THIS  
DISPOSED OF, FONMIN SAID HE HAD INFORMATION OF GREAT  
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IMPORTANCE TO CONVEY. THAT MORNING, PRESIDENT PARK HAD

BERATED HIM FOR FAILURE TO OBTAIN SATISFACTION FROM GOJ  
IN ASSASSINATION CASE. REMARKING WITH SOME HEAT THAT HE HAD TO DO  
EVERYTHING HIMSELF, PRESIDENT TOOK UNPRECEDENTED ACTION OF CALLING  
JAPANESE AMBASSADOR USHIROKU TO BLUE HOUSE IN EARLY  
AFTERNOON.

3. ACCORDING FONMIN, PRESIDENT ASKED USHIROKU TO CONVEY  
TO HIS GOVT THREE POINTS WITH RESPECT TO CURRENT STATUS  
ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS:

A. IN VIEW OF MOUNTING ANTI-JAPANESE FEELING AMONG  
KOREAN PEOPLE, PRESIDNET FELT IT NECESSARY THAT JAPANESE  
TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD WORSEN  
RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT THEN  
REFERRED TO VARIOUS STATEMENTS EMANATING FROM OFFICIAL  
SOURCES IN TOKYO WHICH HAD AROUSED RESENTMENT IN KOREA,  
PARTICULARLY GAIMUSHO REFERENCES FOLLOWING ASSASSINATION  
TO EFFECT JAPAN HAD NEITHER MORAL NOR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY,  
AND FONMIN KIMURA'S RECENT STATEMENT THAT GOJ SEES NO  
IMMEDIATE THREAT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST ROK FROM NORTH  
KOREA. PRESIDENT FELT IN LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES  
SURROUNDING ORIGIN OF ASSASSINATION PLOT, JAPANESE  
SHOULD OFFICIALLY EXPRESS REGRET AND PUBLICLY ASSUME  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXTENT TO WHICH JAPAN INVOLVED.  
MOREOVER, GOJ SHOULD PROSECUTE YOSHII'S AND KIM HO-RYON.

B. PRESIDENT STRESSED TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR THAT  
FOREGOING ASIDE, FUNDAMENTAL THREAT TO MAINTENANCE  
OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WAS CHOSEN SOREN'S USE OF JAPANESE  
BASE FOR ANTI-ROK ACTIVITIES. CHOSEN SOREN WAS DEEPLY  
INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, PERPETRATES SUB-  
VERSIVE ACTS AGAINST ROK, AND ACTS AS NORTH KOREAN  
AGENT IN THIS RESPECT. HE RECOGNIZED THAT CERTAIN  
POLITICAL FREEDOMS EXIST IN JAPAN AND THAT COMMUNIST  
ORGANIZATIONS ARE LEGAL, BUT THAT LAW SHOULD NOT  
PROTECT ORGANIZATION WHICH CONDUCTS SUBVERSION AND  
GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES AGAINST FRIENDLY COUNTRY. UNLESS  
GOJ TOOK ACTION TO DISSOLVE CHOSEN SOREN, OR AT LEAST  
TO DESTROY ITS CAPABILITY FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTS AGAINST  
ROK, HE COULD ENVISAGE SERIES OF EVENTS LIKE AUGUST 15  
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ASSASSINATION.

C. PRESIDENT SAID FOR REASONS OF NATIONAL  
SECURITY AND PROSPERTIY OF BOTH COUNTRIES, HE WANTED  
TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN ROK AND JAPAN;  
HE WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THESE RELATIONS SEVERED OR  
WORSENERED OR DESTROYED. HOWEVER, CURRENT SITUATION CAUSES  
HIM STRONG CONCERN OVER AMBIGUOUS NATURE OF JAPAN'S

BASIC POLICY TOWARD RELATIONS WITH KOREA. (FONMIN SIAD THIS WAS INTENDED TO MEAN THAT AS LONG AS THE JAPANESE ATTITUDE REMAINED AMBIGUOUS, ROK COULD NOT CONTINUE TO CONSIDER JAPAN AS A FRIENDLY NATION. THIS STATEMENT WAS, IN SHORT, A "SORT OF ULTIMATUM" TO JAPANESE.)

FONMIN SAID USHIROKU HAD AGREED PERSONALLY WITH PRESIDENT'S POINTS AND PROMISED TO REPORT THEM IMMEDIATELY TO TOKYO. AT USHIROU'S SUGGESTION,

FONMIN HAD INSTRUCTED ROK AMBASSADOR TOKYO TO MAKE SIMILAR APPROACH TO FONMIN KIMURA.

5. FONMIN, RECALLING THAT USG HAD FELT ROK-JAPAN RAPPROCHEMENT WAS IN US NATIONAL INTEREST AND HAD THEREFORE URGED ROKG IN EARLY 1960'S TO NORMALIZE RELATONS WITH JAPAN, SAID IT OUGHT TO BE EQUALLY IN US NATIONAL INTEREST AT THIS STAGE TO PERSUADE GOJ TO TAKE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO PREVENT BREAKDOWN OF ROK-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP. HE THEREFORE ASKED CHARGE TO CONVEY ROK REQUEST THAT USG DO SO, SUGGESTING THAT FORTHCOMING WASHINGTON VISITS BY TOP LEVEL JAPANESE WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY.

6. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD CONVEY THIS REQUEST TO DEPT, WHICH WOULD DOUBTLESS TAKE SERIOUS VIEW OF SITUATION. CHARGE DECLINED, HOWEVER, TO PREDICT WHAT ACTION USG WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE, SINCE SOLUTION OBVIOUSLY LAY BETWEEN JAPAN AND KOREA AND IN MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIP TO EACH OTHER.

7. ENSUING DISCUSSION, IN WHICH FONMIN WAS LESS THAN COHERENT, WAS LARDED WITH REFERENCES TO DEPTH OF ANTI-CONFIDENTIAL

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JAPANESE FEELING, TO CRITICISM OF HIM PERSONALLY BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, TO DIFFICULTY ROKG WAS HAVING DESPITE FIRM ORDERS FROM PRESIDENT IN CONTROLLING ANTI-JAPANESE DEMONSTRATIONS, TO JAPANESE ASSASSINATION OF QUEEN MIN, AND TO PARALLEL BETWEEN MANNER IN WHICH PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS USE BASES IN LEBANON AGAINST ISRAEL AND CHOSEN SOREN'S USE OF JAPAN AGAINST ROK. ON LATTER POINT, HE MADE STATEMENT, RENDERED IRONIC BY THIS AFTERNOON'S EXPLOSION IN TOKYO (WHICH NOT YET ATTRIBUTED TO KOREANS), THAT ROK WOULD NEVER CONDONE SUCH ACT AS RETALITORY BOMBING OF INSTALLATIONS IN JAPAN.

8. WHEN CHARGE SAID ROKG HAD DOUBTLESS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION POSSIBILITY THAT PRESSURE AGAINST JAPAN

MIGHT RESULT IN EMOTIONAL REACTION WHICH COULD INHIBIT JAPANESE ABILITY TO SUPPORT ROK IN UN OR ENCOURAGE LEFTIST ELEMENTS IN JAPAN TO MOVE GOJ TOWARD CLOSER TIES WITH NORTH KOREA, FONMIN REPLIED, "PRESIDENT SAYS HE DOESN'T CARE - THAT'S THEIR BUSINESS."

9. COMMENT: NOW THAT PRESIDENT HAS PERSONALLY INTERVENED WITH TOUGH APPROACH TO JAPANESE, HIS SUBORDINATES WILL HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO PURSUE OBJECTIVES HE HAS SET. SWARM OF NEWSMEN IN FONMIN'S OUTER OFFICE WHEN CHARGE EMERGED FROM DISCUSSION ALSO VIRTUALLY GUARANTEES KOREAN PUBLIC WILL BE LED TO EXPECT SOME INVOLVEMENT BY USG ON BEHALF OF ROK TO EASE CURRENT STRAINS.

10. SUGGEST DEPT CONSIDER URGING JAPANESE TO EXPLORE LIMITS OF WHAT THEY ARE ABLE TO DO TO ACCOMMODATE ROK POSITION, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO CHOSEN SOREN, BEFORE ALREADY NASTY SITUATION DEVELOPS FURTHER.  
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## Message Attributes

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